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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

SAEKI et al.

Art Unit: 2838

Application No.: 09/528,201

Examiner: P. Tibbits

Filed: March 17, 2000

Attorney Dkt. No.: 100353-09049

For: PROTECTION METHOD, CONTROL CIRCUIT, AND BATTERY UNIT

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: March 13, 2002

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 14, 2001, the period for response being extended from December 14, 2001 until March 14, 2002, by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 6-20 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

1. (New) A control circuit for controlling a discharge control switch which is provided between a load and a plurality of battery cells which are coupled in series, said discharge control switch being controlled by a monitor circuit which monitors over-discharge of each of the battery cells and being turned OFF when the over-discharge is monitored, said control circuit comprising: